

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04653 221058Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-07 COME-00 SSO-00
NASA-02 /039 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO USIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4065

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4653

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA/A

TAGS: BEXP

SUBJECT: MARS VIKING LANDER FOR DAMASCUS FAIR

REF: LONDON 12054, USIA 20028

1. I CONSIDER VIKING LANDER ESSENTIAL AS CENTERPIECE FOR
PAVILION. ITS ABSENCE WILL SIGNIFICANTLY DIMINISH OVERALL
IMPACT OUR PAVILION. PLEASE ADVISE ON FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES
TO MEET NEWLY DISCOVERED SHIPPING PROBLEMS:

2. NASA TECHNICIAN WOOLARD NOW IN DAMASCUS QUESTIONS NEED
FOR PALLET. SAYS LANDER SHIPPED WITHOUT PALLET BEFORE AND
SUGGESTS PERMANENT REMOVAL. ALTERNATIVELY, LANDER MIGHT
BE SHIPPED ON PALLET WITH CRATE FULLY OR PARTIALLY DISMANTLED
TO SAVE THE REQUIRED FIVE INCHES PLUS. CRATE WOULD BE RE-
ASSEMBLED AROUND LANDER ON ARRIVAL AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT.
REQUEST USIA CALL HAL MEHRENS AT LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER,
OFFICE PHONE (804) 827-3966, WHO PACKED LANDER AFTER LAST
SHOW AND ASK WHAT DEGREE OF DISMANTLING POSSIBLE FOR SHIP-
MENT.

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 04653 221058Z

3. WOOLARD ALSO POINTS OUT LANDER SHIPPED ACROSS GERMANY
ON REGULAR (NON-AIR-RIDE) TRUCK. UNDERSTAND ROYAL JORDANIAN
AIRLINES FLIES HALF PASSENGER, HALF CARGO 747 LONDON/AMMAN
WHICH HAS LARGER CARGO DOOR THAN 747SP AND SHOULD ACCEPT
LANDER CRATES. IN THIS CASE WE COULD BRING CRATES BY
EMBASSY TRUCK FROM AMMAN, RESTING ON CUSHION OF BOX SPRINGS.

4. NASA TECHNICIAN WOOLARD CAN GO EITHER TO LONDON TO SUPERVISE LOADING OR TO AMMAN TO SUPERVISE TRANSPORTATION BY TRUCK.

5. LAST 747 COMMERCIAL FLIGHT ARRIVING IN DAMASCUS PRIOR FAIR OPENING IS SYRIAN AIR FLT 408, DEPARTING LONDON 1700 HOURS, JULY 24.

6. IF NONE OF THESE ALTERNATIVES FEASIBLE THEN REQUEST SHIPMENT OF LANDER BY U.S. MILITARY FLIGHT INTO DAMASCUS. PREVIOUS OBJECTION BY AIR FORCE BASED ON UNDESIRABILITY OF COMPETING WITH COMMERCIAL CARRIES. IF NO COMMERCIAL CARRIER ABLE TO HANDLE SHIPMENT, THIS OBJECTION NO LONGER APPLICABLE.

7. APPRECIATE MAXIMUM EFFORT ALL CONCERNED TO MAKE ONE OF THESE ALTERNATIVES WORK.
MURPHY

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